

First record of Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* for the Cape Verde Islands

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Première mention de la Touterelle maillée *Spilopelia senegalensis* pour les Îles du Cap Vert. Le 3 mai 2015, une Touterelle maillée *Spilopelia senegalensis* adulte a été photographiée à Murdeira, Sal. Ceci constitue la première donnée pour l'archipel.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* occurs widely on the African continent, the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra, as well as western Asia (Baptista *et al.* 1997, del Hoyo & Collar 2014). In Macaronesia, there are records on Madeira and Deserta Grande (Correia-Fagundes *et al.* 2013, Rocha 2013) and established populations in the Canaries, where it has spread from east to west and colonised many islands in the last two decades (Lorenzo *et al.* 2007, Barone 2010, Trujillo 2013, Ramírez & Ramos 2015).

On 3 May 2015, JJB photographed an adult Laughing Dove in the gardens of a small tourist complex in the southern half of Murdeira, Sal, Cape Verde Islands (Figs. 1–2). The bird was

observed for several minutes before it flew off. There were no further observations on the island during the week JJB was there. This is the first record for the Cape Verde Islands (*cf.* Hazevoet 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2010, 2012, 2014, Hazevoet *et al.* 1996).

We are unsure as to the subspecific identity of the bird observed on Sal, but it probably involved *S. s. senegalensis* due to the geographical position of the Cape Verde Islands with respect to the African continent, as the archipelago lies close to Senegal and extreme southern Mauritania, where this subspecies occurs (Baptista *et al.* 1997).

The species has expanded its range in north-west Africa in recent decades, especially



Figures 1–2. Adult Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*, Murdeira, Sal, Cape Verde Islands, 3 May 2015 (Juan José Bacallado)

Touterelle maillée *Spilopelia senegalensis*, adulte, Murdeira, Sal, Îles du Cap Vert, 3 mai 2015 (Juan José Bacallado)

in Morocco (Thévenot *et al.* 2003), and has even occurred in Italy (Brichetti & Fracasso 2015), where a population is now established on Pantelleria Island (Gildi & Ruggieri 2002).

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